



APPROVED MINUTES
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, Idaho

The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission held a teleconference call on March 26, 2004 at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, 2270 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, Idaho.

Chairman Reid called the teleconference to order at 10:33 A.M. Verbal attendance was as follows:

Members:

Jerry Reid – Chairman
J. Morgan Evans – Secretary
Tom Johnson – Member
Gary Grindstaff
Bill Whittom.

Others:

Jerry Nicolescu, Administrator, ISCC
Brenda Thomasson,
Jeff Martin, North Snake Groundwater District
David Blew, Idaho Water Resources
Kathy Weaver, SCC
Biff Burleigh, SCC

Nicolescu brought forth the loan request for Jeff Isham. He asked Thomasson to explain the information for the Ishams. Thomasson explained the additional information that had been received from the Ishams. She explained that the tax returns received from the Ishams had been incompletely reviewed and that the actual farm income was available on schedule F. Thomasson noted that Ishams income was substantially greater than what had been indicated on the original loan approval request. Ishams debt to income ratio is very low and the collateral offered more than adequately secures the loan. The loan amount requested was \$60,000.00 on a fifteen year term at 5% interest. Evans moved to approve. Johnston seconded. After a brief discussion, Johnston asked that we verify that the Ishams's actually have the right to pump out of the river. Evans second. Motion carried and the loan was approved for \$60,000 subject to the terms of the agreement.

Nicolescu asked if everyone had received the information on the Bastian grant. There is a grant for Eric Bastian that was approved last May from the Franklin District. A request was sent on August 18 last year. The grant was approved for \$8,000 and they had requested an additional \$1,953 to bring the grant up to \$10,000. The grant was to be terminated on December 1st. The District clarified that the request from August was to extend the grant and

PO Box 790
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, ID 83701-0790

(208) 332-8650
Fax (208) 334-2386

www.scc.state.id.us

Governor
Dirk Kempthorne

Commission members
Jerry Reid
Bill Whittom
J. Morgan Evans
Gary Grindstaff
Tom Johnston

Administrator
Jerry Nicolescu



PO Box 790
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, ID 83701-0790

(208) 332-8650
Fax (208) 334-2386

www.scc.state.id.us

Governor
Dirk Kempthorne

Commission members

Jerry Reid
Bill Whittom
J. Morgan Evans
Gary Grindstaff
Tom Johnston

Administrator
Jerry Nicolescu

to increase the amount to \$10,000. The district also implied that they had had a discussion with Commissioner Evans specifically regarding this grant. Evans stated that this grant was not specifically requested of him at the meeting in Franklin County and stated that to infer there had been a discussion was absurd. Grindstaff moved that the grant be increased to \$10,000 and be approved. Johnston seconded. Motion carried and the grant was approved for \$10,000.00.

There are approximately \$59,000 worth of grant requests to be reviewed. Each of these applicants is also applying for a loan. All projects involve switching over from ground water irrigation to surface irrigation. These are within the boundaries of the North Snake Groundwater District. This is a high priority for the Districts. These are funds that would be replaced by the legislature next year as a supplement from the legislature in January of 2005, or in the Commission Fiscal 06 budget. These projects are very important to the Governor's office.

There might be several more of these types of grant requests coming in the near future. Both David Blew and Jeff Martin have more background and detail on these projects. Johnston reported that he had a conversation with Senator Brad Little yesterday, who indicated that this was a critical project. Johnston felt it should be noted that these requests were heavily influenced by our funding source.

Johnston moved to approve all five grants in the amounts requested. Evans seconded. Grindstaff stated that this is very important to their area and is important to their economy. Nicolescu asked if Mr. Blew or Mr. Martin had any comments. Evans asked to hear from Mr. Blew also. Martin stated that it was critical for the assistance and that it was much appreciated. Blew commented that these conversion systems are extremely important in reducing the reliance on groundwater. Water Resources is very appreciative of the assistance provided. Water Resources will do what they can to support these projects and he will pass this on to his administrator. At the conclusion of the discussion, the motion carried. {Recording secretary's note: Grants were approved for David Hamilton, Standing Hat Ranch in the amount of \$4,707; Kenny Anderson in the amount of \$4,765; Bryan Ravenscroft in the amount of \$4,316; Rodney Bolich, Bolich Inc., in the amount of \$17,868; and for Ken, Kevin, and Adrian Boer, K & W Dairy in the amount of \$37,601.}

Nicolescu asked Mr. Martin if there were more of these types of grants. He stated that there will be six to eight more grant requests ready in the next two to three weeks. Nicolescu expects that approximately \$160,000 will be expended on this effort and he hopes that we are funding the projects with the greatest impact. Nicolescu will continue to have discussions with the Governor's office about replacing these funds. Evans asked for reassurance that grants coming from other areas will not be denied just because of the high-priority of those areas. Nicolescu has asked the Governor's office to have funds moved from the loan program on a temporary basis and then replace those funds as a supplemental or as part of the FY06 budget. The legislature is very appreciative of our efforts.

This is a very specific need to one area of the state that will not impact grants.

Grindstaff asked why there had not been any press about the Commission. Water Resources has been mentioned several times with regard to their loan program, but nothing has been mentioned about the Commission. Evans stated that he would like to see an article about what we are doing and would like to see something come out from ISDA with regard to our efforts. Jeff Martin stated that he would make an effort to publicize what the Commission is doing to assist with these projects.

Grindstaff also asked what the status is on the former loan officer. Nicolescu stated that he will be subpoenaed as a witness on Monday for the criminal investigation. Nicolescu reported that he had met with Brian Whitlock and that there were no concerns.

Weaver reported that Evans will be inducted into the Eastern Idaho Agricultural Hall of Fame this evening. She has sent an article to Kathy Sodhi for inclusion in *This Week in Ag* and will also send the information to Bill Whittom for him to use on the radio.

There being no further discussion, Grindstaff moved to adjourn, Johnston seconded, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted as transcribed by Brenda Thomasson,
Management Assistant.